

Turning a botanic garden into an enchanted forest

By **James Sullivan** Globe Correspondent, Updated August 31, 2022, 2:44 p.m.



One of many site-specific and nature-inspired fairy houses of the Enchanted Forest exhibit. SALLY J. SMITH

Whether she's out in the woods or exploring a well-tended garden, Sally J. Smith never feels alone.

"It's the spirit of the place," says the artist. "I'll see a little face that calls to me, and I'll work from there."

For the past 15 years or so Smith — a watercolorist, photographer, and land artist — has

specialized in building fairy houses, whimsical structures made from wood, stone, leaves, and other natural materials. Beginning on Sept. 10, Smith's creations will transform the new playground at the recently renamed [New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill](#) in Boylston into an "Enchanted Forest."

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